

IN THE CLAIMS:

✓  
Please delete claims 1-22 and insert the following new claims:

--23. ✓ A peptide or polypeptide which is a fragment of the extracellular portion of the IFN-R of SEQ ID NO: 2, said peptide or polypeptide consisting of amino acid residue 27 to amino acid residue 427 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 or a portion thereof; wherein said peptide or polypeptide specifically binds to monoclonal antibody 64G12 (deposited at the ECACC under no. 92022605).

24. A peptide or polypeptide as claimed in claim 23, consisting of amino acid residue 27 to amino acid residue 229 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 or a portion thereof.

25. ✓ A peptide or polypeptide which is a fragment of the extracellular portion of the IFN-R of SEQ ID NO: 2, said peptide or polypeptide consisting of amino acid residue 1 to amino acid residue 229 of SEQ ID NO: 1 or 2 or a portion thereof; wherein said peptide or polypeptide specifically binds to monoclonal antibody 64G12.

26. An analogue of a peptide or polypeptide as claimed in claim 23, which is derived from said peptide or polypeptide by substitution of one or more amino acid residues and which retains the ability to specifically bind to monoclonal antibody 64G12.

27. A method of producing a monoclonal antibody, comprising immunizing an animal with a peptide or polypeptide as claimed in claim 23, fusing spleen cell from the immunized animal with myeloma cells, isolating hybridoma cells which produce antibodies, and selecting and purifying monoclonal cell lines producing antibodies which specifically bind to said peptide or polypeptide.

28. A method of producing a monoclonal antibody, comprising contacting stimulated B-lymphocytes *in vitro* with a peptide or polypeptide according to claim 23, fusing the resultant B-lymphocytes with B-lymphocytes immortalized with Epstein-Barr